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# The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

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\$1.50 (incl. GST)  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

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## No money left over on arena project

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

It appears there will be no surplus on the Minden Hills arena project, meaning there will be no money in the project's "profit pool" for "value-added items" at the facility.

Councillors for the township received an update on the \$12.75-million project's finances during a May 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting. The contract for the facility was awarded to the joint project delivery team of McDonald Brothers Construction and Parkin Architects Limited, with the construction firm overseeing the tendering of sub-trades on the project.

"MBC [McDonald Brothers Construction] has advised that, based on completed tenders and items that remain outstanding, a project surplus is unlikely," read a report from chief administrative officer/treasurer Lorrie Blanchard. "Staff is seeking direction from council regarding the approval of any added value items, as well as the source of funding."

Value-added items are ones not included in the project's budget, which range from a retractable stage to paving a portion of the parking lot to office furniture for community

see OFFICE page 2



### Sowing seeds for summer

Courtney Ryckman, left, and her four-year-old son Deagan Schlosser finish working on the garden at Molly's Bistro Bakery on Wednesday, May 13 in Minden. Ryckman is a Molly's staff member and took advantage of the spring-like weather, preparing the planter by weeding and planting perennials. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Surplus of more than \$900K for MH

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills accrued a large surplus last year, one totalling more

than \$900,000.

During a May 13 committee-of-the-whole meeting, councillors received a report from chief administrative officer/treasurer Lorrie Blanchard indicating that, pending an audit, the township had accrued a 2019 surplus of \$904,370. That surplus is equivalent to 10.72

per cent of the year's tax levy.

Blanchard's report showed that much of the surplus, more than \$500,000, is attributed to unfilled staffing positions and associated wages and benefits.

Of note, this summary provides a separate see UNSPENT page 2

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# Unspent wages, benefits pile up

from page 1

column that outlines the amount of surplus that is attributed to wages and benefits as it relates to an inability to replace staff, to hire new staff (as approved by council) and/or as a result of hirings that occurred later than expected and budgeted,” the report read. “This total represents approximately \$503,480.”

Additional variances included supplemental taxes, write-offs, amounts retained from the school board, gas tax top-ups and bank interest income that was higher than budgeted. The report also included a list of potential projects where some of the surplus could be spent, including more than \$300,000 worth of “value items” for the township’s arena project, those being items such as furniture and equipment not included in the project’s budget.

Councillor Bob Carter said he thought the township was going to receive some pretty extreme criticism having a surplus that totalled nearly 11 per cent of its tax levy.

“I think it’s very important for us to recognize that this isn’t found money, this is taxpayer money,” Carter said. Carter said he thought the surplus should be used for core projects to help offset any tax increase for residents next year, and not on “favourites” that were on the list of potential uses.

Carter noted that 2020 was going to be a difficult year for many.

“From my perspective, it’s not going into nice-to-have projects,” Carter said, with Councillor Ron Nesbitt saying he agreed with Carter 100 per cent.

“I hope with our next budget we can manage this better,” said Councillor Pam Sayne with regard to the size of the surplus.

“A lot of people in our county during this pandemic are without work,” said Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, agreeing that the surplus should be used to offset any tax increase next year.

Council is also considering ways to assist residents with some relief on property taxes and is scheduled to discuss that issue further at an upcoming meeting. Mayor Brent Devolin said he’d like to see a post-COVID-19 analysis of the township’s finances conducted later in the year. For the time being, the surplus will be parked in the township’s capital project reserve.

“

I think it’s very important for us to recognize that this isn’t found money, this is taxpayer money.

— BOB CARTER, COUNCILLOR

”

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### In queue for a cold one

Patrons stand in line observing social-distancing measures outside the Beer Store on Wednesday, May 13 in Minden. Like all retailers, the Beer Store is limiting the number of people in the store as part of safety measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus./DARREN LUM Staff

## Office furniture tops list of value-added items

from page 1

services staff, who will have office space inside the new building. Under the integrated project delivery framework of the project, any savings found from tendering sub-trades was to be directed into a contingency account known as the “profit pool,” with any monies in that account to be split between the builders and the township once the project was completed. The township would then use its portion of the money for some of these valued-added items. Last summer, \$80,000 was “released” from the project’s contingency fund, half of it going to the construction and architecture firms, and half to the township, with Minden Hills’ share going to cover some of the early integration costs of the project. In December of 2019, McDonald Brothers Construction requested and received from the township an additional \$250,000 to complete the project, growing its initial budget of just less than \$12.5 million to just less than \$12.75 million.

“In fact, we didn’t have savings, we had to give them more to get the project done,” Councillor Bob Carter said during last week’s meeting.

The list of possible value-added items sits at approximately \$440,000, \$130,000 of which can be paid for through an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, leaving approximately \$310,000 worth of costs to the township. All members of council seemed to agree that of the value-added items, the crucial one was office furniture for community services staff. “People need somewhere to work,” said Mayor Brent Devolin.

While quotes for office furniture and other value-added items had been attained through McDonald Brothers

Construction, Carter noted that markup on these items is substantially higher than the anticipated markups the company had initially provided.

“Our markups are 82 per cent, and they estimated 20?” Carter said. “They were that far off?”

Council seemed to agree that tendering for value-added items or provision of any associated services should be brought in-house at the township at this point.

“I don’t think we need our engineers and construction company to be helping us with our interior decorating,” Carter said.

In February of 2019, Carter, along with councillors Pam Sayne and Jennifer Hughey voted against proceeding with the project as proposed, voicing concerns about its price tag and awarding the contract to a lone bidder. The bid from McDonald Brothers and Parkin was the only one the township received. Mayor Brent Devolin, Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and councillors Jean Neville and Ron Nesbitt voted to proceed.

The township is paying for the majority of the project through a loan from provincial lending organization Infrastructure Ontario, and Blanchard’s report indicated that because of interest rate decreases amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the township would be paying \$71,000 less in interest than anticipated. The plan had been to repay the loan – up to \$11.9 million – over a 30-year period, and given the new information, Carter said he’d like to see figures for a 25-year repayment.

Construction on the project was paused for a month amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected to be completed in the summer.



There will be no surplus on Minden Hills’ \$12.75-million arena project, leaving the cost of additional “value-added items” up to the township. / CHAD INGRAM Staff



# Council considers culling of pigeons

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

Minden Hills council is considering some options in dealing with a flock of pigeons that have taken up roost in downtown Minden.

In April, council had received a letter from a downtown business regarding the pigeons – and their droppings – requesting that the township do something about the matter. “I cannot be the only business affected by this,” that letter read. “I don’t want to move out and leave another empty building on the main street.”

Councillors had requested a staff report with options come back to the council and they reviewed that report during a May 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting. Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, local councils are holding meetings remotely, with councillors participating using online video conferencing platform Zoom. Meetings are then publicly broadcast via YouTube.

Public works director Travis Wilson contacted two contractors for quotes, those companies being Eco-Choice Pest Control and Rentokil, the latter company being the one the township uses to control the seagull population at the Scotch Line landfill.

“Both contractors are very knowledgeable in this field and have provided a very extensive proposal,” the report from Wilson read. “Both propose placing baited live traps on any flat roof occupied by the pigeons (subject to any requirements for owner permission). The traps would be checked regularly, with the pigeons taken off site and euthanized. In order to successfully trap pigeons, they will need to become accustomed to the traps. This will entail pre-feeding them without having a trap set (this is contingent on others not feeding them). The traps would then be set with the essentials for life (shade, water and feed).”

The report suggests that pre-feeding could take place on the roofs of the buildings that the flock typically inhabits, or on the flat roof of the township’s administrative building.

The cost for a 30-week service would range between \$1,500 and \$2,500 plus taxes, and it was Wilson’s recommendation the contract be awarded to Eco-Choice, which provided the

“

I know that the old theatre is perhaps a haven for them.

— DEPUTY MAYOR LISA SCHELL

”

lower of two quotes. He also recommended that an additional \$1,500 in contingency be provided, in the case that birth control feed (which costs \$500 a bag) is required, or if additional services are needed.

“As we’ve learned with the seagull situation, it’s not a one-stop shop with these situations,” Wilson said, adding the birds learn and adapt their behaviour, which can require the exterminators to change their methods.

“I’m a little worried that this seems like another open-ended contract that may go on forever and ever, amen,” said Councillor Bob Carter.

Councillor Pam Sayne said she thought the township should be honing in on the pigeons’ food sources and trying to deal with that before undertaking the process.

“I know that the old theatre is perhaps a haven for them,” said Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, in reference to the former Beaver Theatre on Water Street, where the birds are able to get in and out through windows on its second storey.

Mayor Brent Devolin said it was his understanding that the building had a new owner, and that it was the intention of that owner to knock the building down.

“Does that owner have any responsibility for blocking up the windows?” Carter asked. “We don’t want to wait months.”

The township’s bylaw department is to speak to the building’s new owner, and council will discuss the issue again at their next meeting.

## Schools to remain closed until September

by JENN WATT  
Editor

Class materials will continue to be offered online or through alternative formats for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

On May 19, Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced that Ontario’s schools would remain closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but indicated that stage two of the reopening plan would include child care and summer day camps.

The decision was made based on consultation with the chief medical officer of health and other medical experts.

The province plans to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

“Our plan will ensure students receive the best educational experience, both inside and outside the classroom, during this difficult time,” Lecce said. “That is why we are strengthening summer learning opportunities, reopening summer day camps, and it is why we will continue to make the case for synchronous, live, and dynamic learning.”

## Province lifts fire ban

A restriction that has been in place for weeks banning fires in Ontario’s “restricted fire zone,” which includes Haliburton County, was lifted as of May 16 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The ban was put in place to reduce the number of human-made fires, which would put the public at risk and take up time of emergency responders during a time when their services were already being taxed with the coronavirus pandemic.

The Municipality of Dysart et al confirmed that since there was no municipal fire ban, local residents would be permitted to have bonfires – just in time for the long weekend. Follow the regulations of your local municipality.

According to the provincial government, 50 per cent of wildland fires in Ontario are caused by humans.

Staff

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### DISCLAIMER

The information provided on this page is considered current and valid as of May 15, 2020.

While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer our website at [www.mindhills.ca](http://www.mindhills.ca) for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca) for assistance.

### Requests for Tender

1. **RFT # ENV 20-03 Irondale Landfill Site Cap and Closure Construction.** The Township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents to complete landfill closure works at the Irondale Landfill. Submission deadline is May 27, 2020 by 12:00 noon.
2. **RFT # RDS 20-03 Reconstruction of IGA Road.** The Township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents for the reconstruction of IGA Road. Submission deadline is May 27, 2020 by 12:00 noon.
3. **RFP #FIRE 20-01 Rapid/Initial/Wildland Attack Truck.** The township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents for the provision of a multipurpose 4x4 rapid attack fire apparatus with pump-and-roll capabilities. Submission deadline is May 29, 2020 by 12:00 noon.

Please visit [www.mindhills.ca/tenders/](http://www.mindhills.ca/tenders/) to view the tender documents and for complete information on how to submit bids.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT DAY

The first Hazardous Waste Collection Event at the Scotch Line Landfill has been postponed to Saturday, **June 6th, 2020** from 8am-11:30am. New drop-off procedures are in place. Please visit our website or call 705-286-1260 for details.

### VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings are held virtually, starting at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council office, 7 Milne Street. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**May 28** - Regular Council Meeting  
**June 11** - Committee of the Whole Council Meeting

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.mindhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindhills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.mindhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindhills.ca/council/).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

### TOWNSHIP SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS

A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts or email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca).

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

**We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.**

We are also asking the public for their patience during this time and to observe our request to contact the Township for municipal related inquiries by the following methods only:

Telephone: 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts  
Email: [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca)

**Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form.**

If you are aware of anyone who is not adhering to the Government's order which prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than five (5) people, or who are not practicing appropriate physical distancing; you are encouraged to contact your local police department or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online by visiting [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting).

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to:  
[www.mindhills.ca/covid-19-information/](http://www.mindhills.ca/covid-19-information/)



# 'Cautious optimism' for first stage of reopening

by JENN WATT  
Editor

Representatives of the county's business community say there is cautious optimism from among their membership following the province's decision to begin stage one of the reopening process this week.

On May 14, Premier Doug Ford released a list of businesses that can reopen or expand their offerings in Ontario including medical services, counsellors, golf courses, marinas, veterinarians, housekeeping, pet grooming and training, some retail services, and construction. These businesses must observe safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Haliburton County's business community is flexible, said Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce executive director Jennifer Locke, a necessary trait when operating in a seasonal economy.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary closure of many industries has presented real challenges: "they [businesses] are now tasked with new guidelines around safe operations, often involving reduced capacities for revenue and significant changes in operations (for example, one worker per vehicle driving to job sites). They feel that the government information is often vague and unclear, and are concerned about the social risk and legal implications of making the 'wrong move,'" Locke said.

Andrea Strano, president of the local chamber of commerce, said government assistance programs for business have helped, but not all members are eligible.

"For some, the support has helped members retain all their employees and avoid not having to lay people off, but for others, mostly the self-employed individuals with variable incomes throughout the year, it hasn't been helpful," Strano said. "The government needs to recognize that recovery is going to vary by community – for example a lot of our members make 80 per cent of their income in a two-month period during the summer. There needs to be more long-term support as far as forgivable business loans as the support they have received so far is only sustainable for the short term. Many business owners have spent through their CEBA [Canadian Emergency Business Account] loan in a matter of a couple weeks."

Locke said she is hearing from businesses "cautious optimism" and that they're seeing the "light at the end of the tunnel" with the arrival of the first stage of reopening.

The chamber wants to see all businesses up and running soon, added Strano, but it has to be done in a safe manner.

"We have to trust the advice the provincial government is being given by medical experts. I will say I'm happy to hear that there

is a small portion of our members that will be able to open and operate during Phase 1," Strano said.

Haliburton County Home Builders' Association issued a press release on May 15 applauding the province's inclusion of construction on their list and reiterated that safety was their first priority.

"We are still focused on the safety of job sites, workers and clients," association president Keith Thomas said. "Getting our industry safely back to work means we can get back to providing the housing supply and choice our community needs, from renovations to new home builds to adding new commercial workspace in Haliburton County."

The construction industry can now move forward on all residential, non-residential, and renovation construction projects.

The association said they've been in contact with the county's chief building officials and "they will be up and ready to move permits on May 19," though the process differs between each municipality.

Golf courses are now allowed to reopen, with clubhouses open only for washroom use and for takeout food.

Randall Wood, from the Haliburton Highlands Golf Course, has been reviewing the protocols and going through the steps required for reopening since Ford's announcement. "All the on-golf-course activities have been already set and ready to go. So the golf course is ready to go," said Wood. "It's just the clubhouse we're more worried about right now and keeping it safe for our staff and our customers."

Wood says the phones at the course have already been ringing from people who want to get out and golf. However, Wood says the course won't rush to make a decision on reopening.

"I'm still going through the protocols right now to make sure that I can get everything done safely and confidently enough that we can open our doors. That's what I'm afraid of is that the rush might push it," said Wood. "To throw a whole bunch of new rules out here for opening day, on a long weekend, this is gonna be a challenge."

In the health sector, the resumption of in-person counselling is now permitted, but as Marg Cox of Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents pointed out, guidelines still ask for virtual meetings whenever possible.

"We are working hard to balance the health and safety of both staff and people using our services. With this in mind, we are finalizing on our plan for seeing people face to face. Current clarification from the province indicates 'that virtual service is still encouraged wherever possible,'" she said.

Point in Time has developed protocols to reduce risk, using larger rooms to allow for physical distancing and cleaning the space

between sessions.

"Point in Time has continued to operate as an essential service and is looking forward to gradually being able to expand our service delivery models to include face-to-face service and at the same time we are planning to retain our virtual service delivery options going forward when appropriate," Cox said.

Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services had continued with face-to-face meetings in crisis situations with personal protective equipment used by staff, said Beverlee Groves-Foley, clinical manager.

"We maintained our crisis assessments in office and the emergency [department], and our psychiatry services were maintained virtually. We have all been working here at HHMH services on site as we have private offices and we are part of the hospital team. Over the pandemic, a lot of my staff have also been redeployed a day a week to support the care in the organization (jobs like screening staff, inventory of supplies, additional help lines set up for front line staff, development of online services for clients to access)," she said.

They also used Zoom for video counselling groups and set up a phone-in group.

"... We look to implement permanent virtual services in the future which will assist in our challenge of client transportation," she said.

From the chamber of commerce's perspective, Locke said she was pleased that the province was supporting business through its personal protective equipment inventory, that connects those who need PPE with those making it.

She said she'd like to see better messaging and a change in tone from those doing the enforcement.

"It would be wonderful if the province could align its messaging across its offices that are responsible for monitoring/supporting safe operations of businesses – further, in terms of the culture and messaging being delivered to the staff responsible for 'policing,' it would be wonderful to see a culture of support and compassion over an adversarial and punitive program," she said.

Strano said businesses would need assistance with doing the necessary renovations to make their locations safer.

"I would like to see forgivable support for businesses that have had to spend a substantial amount of money to renovate/alter their business premises to accommodate the return back to the office/workplace," she said.

Additionally, she said expanding the rules around eligibility for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance for small businesses program would help keep the downtown areas populated.

"We already had an issue before this started of a handful of empty storefronts on our main streets in the county. We don't need to add to it. I would like to see something being done to pretty up those spaces, a poster campaign promoting our community, local artwork in empty shop windows," she said.

Overall, Strano said things were looking up: "These are good first steps, and we remain optimistic and hopeful for a positive turn around."

*With files from Zachary Roman*



The boat launch at Little Boshkung Lake is open, but reminds users to observe COVID-19 protocols. Access to services and amenities often includes requirements to maintain a distance from other people, regularly wash hands and disinfect surfaces. /DARREN LUM Staff

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# MH considering more shoreline controls

by **CHAD INGRAM**  
Times Staff

During a May 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting, Minden Hills council discussed the ways the township might more tightly control development in shoreline areas, including whether or not to continue the practice of selling shoreline road allowances to property owners.

“As a result of council’s concerns regarding the hardening of shorelines within the township, such as through the use of armour stone retaining walls, proposed bylaws put before council on Sept. 26, 2019 to stop up, close, and convey parts of the original shore road allowance were deferred and staff were directed to look into how the township could ensure the hardening of shorelines were prevented,” read a report from township planner Ian Clendening.

While the County of Haliburton had been working on a draft shoreline preservation by-law that would have more further controlled any development within 30 metres of the high-water mark, that process has been derailed by the COVID-19 crisis. The plan had been to facilitate an in-depth public consultation process, including a number of public meetings, throughout the summer on the controversial bylaw.

Clendening told council he could also start

bringing what he called “thin edge of the wedge” cases directly to council. For example, a property owner wishing to replace a deteriorating wooden retaining wall on their property with a stone wall.

More than half of the shoreline in the township is already privately owned, with 51 per cent belonging to private landowners and 49 per cent to the township. Council will discuss the issue again.

# Taking time in self-isolation: The art of the roll

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

During the coronavirus pandemic, life has existed closer to home for many people.

Olivia Humphries, 13, has used her time at home to resume quilling, also referred to as paper filigree.

Thin strips of paper are rolled and shaped to form designs that can be used to create a charm, earrings, decoration, or images.

This form of paper art has its origins in ancient Egypt, but was widely practiced by French and Italian nuns in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The home-schooled student, who has seen the cancellation of some of her scheduled programming, loves the feeling of satisfaction she gets when seeing the progress of a form and then again upon completion.

It’s been a year since she first learned how to quill with a friend.

At the lesson, she received her own kit, which included a quilling tool with a slotted



Olivia Humphries creates a form using a quilling technique while sitting on the front steps of her house in Carnarvon. Quilling is one of the hobbies she has taken up during the pandemic./ **DARREN LUM** Staff

tip for rolling the paper, a plastic template with varied sizes of circles to help with forming, and a needle-tipped bottle of glue for application. Other tools for quilling include scissors and tweezers.

When she resumed quilling in May she re-

alized she had initially been doing it backwards and she also suffered a memorable papercut. A recent growth spurt also means she’s had to adapt to no longer having the small hands that made the craft a little easier.

The challenges of taking something up af-

ter a long time have been worth it, she said, since she has lots of free time.

One owl charm the size of a loonie takes Olivia about 30 minutes.

She has a small collection of forms she has created and given to family and friends like her owl charms, but the calibre of work is only limited by imagination. Well-known contemporary quilling artist Yulia Brodskaya of Russia has sold her work to celebrities and has it hanging in galleries.

Olivia’s advice for anyone looking to take up anything for the first time or again after a long time is to stick with it.

“Don’t just leave it [and say] ‘Ahhh, this is too hard.’ Don’t do that. It gets easier and you feel great once it’s finished,” she said.

*This story is one of a series on residents taking advantage of this period of self-isolation to take up a new art or hobby or revisit one from their past. Contact Darren Lum at [darren@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:darren@haliburtonpress.com) or call him at 705-457-1037 ext. 38 if you have an art or craft you’d like to share.*

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**IN OTHER WORDS**

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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Published by White Pine Media CorpFunded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**

Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - noon

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## Free beer tomorrow

**D**URING A Minden Hills committee-of-the-whole meeting last week, councillors received a report confirming there will likely be no surplus on the township's arena project.

What a shock.

Back when the project was getting underway, the supposed benefits of its "integrated project delivery" design were frequently touted by the township's mayor, the now-former community services director, and the construction and architecture companies team that got the very lucrative contract. Amid community concerns about the project's immense price tag, we were told, again and again, about the miracles of the framework's "profit pool." The profit pool was to be where any savings found via subcontracting contracts on the project would be kept, to be split between the companies, which oversaw tendering sub-trades, and the township when the project was complete. Back in July of last year, with the contingency fund sitting at nearly \$300,000, \$80,000 was "released," \$40,000 of it going to the companies, and \$40,000 to the township, since the construction company "felt comfortable" with it at the time, the township's now-former community services director said. Later in the year, the construction company came back to council, asking for, and receiving, an additional \$250,000 to complete the project, bringing its total budget to a staggering \$12.75 million.

Even with that additional money, there is no money left over. There is no profit pool. Not even a kiddie-sized one. And there was never going to be.

The very first phase of the project, the so-called "validation phase" – essentially a series of engineering assessments – went way over the amount council had approved for it. Council had initially approved \$140,000 for the validation phase and ultimately, all-in, with additional work, legal expenses and meeting costs – including conference

calls and lunches – it ended up costing \$353,000. A bad start and a crystal clear indication of how the rest of project was going to go.

But at the time, we were told not to fret. Through the tendering processes there would be savings, and at the end, the companies and the township would bask in the glory of the profit pool, the township's share of those funds going to pay for "value-added items" at the facility, those items ranging from a retractable stage to murals to office furniture.

There are \$440,000 worth of "value-added items" on that list, \$130,000 of which can be paid for through an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, leaving approximately \$310,000 for the township to deal with. The only item council seems particularly concerned about at this point is office furniture for community services staff. Because that's what we're left with. A nearly \$13-million facility with no office furniture in it.

Even the quotes for these value-added items that came through the construction company have been subject to significant markups from its initial estimates. In the words of Councillor Bob Carter, "Our markups are 82 per cent and they estimated 20. They were that far off?"

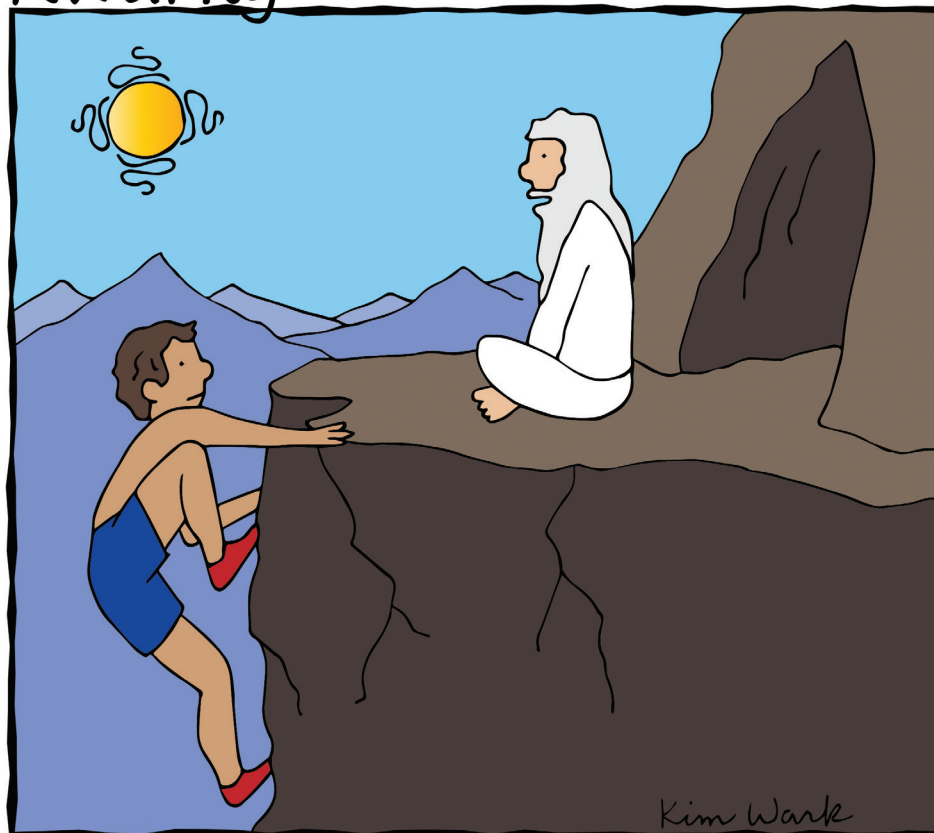
It seems clear that those remaining items will be dealt with in-house, or through township-led tendering processes. As Carter said, "I don't think we need our engineers and construction company to be helping us with our interior decorating."

We sure don't. It's time for them to finish up and get out. This ride has gone on long enough.

The first misstep in this process took place about 15 months ago when four of seven members of Minden Hills council voted to award a multi-million project to a lone bidder. On such a substantial project, the township should have waited until it had at least three competitive bids.

**CHAD INGRAM**  
Reporter

## Kwarky

*"I can't promise enlightenment, just great calves."*

## Near tragedy

**T**HE OTHER day a good friend of mine called to tell me about an unfortunate thing that happened to him. He was fishing for brook trout in one of our favourite rivers when he hooked into a good one. From there on in, things went downhill.

The fight went well until the end when he stepped forward to net the fish. The netting part was not the issue either. No, that came with the stepping forward part.

For, as any angler knows, in a river, one small step can make the difference between a nice experience and driving home in wet underwear – which, by the way, is harder to explain than you might think – and only truly comfortable on a hot summer's day.

According to my friend, he found himself dealing with a big brook trout that he said did not fully fit into his net. This was complicated by the fact that he had stepped into

fast flowing water that was over his head.

This meant he had to choose between drowning and abandoning all hope of landing a brook trout he excitedly described as "huge." Ask any angler – this is never an easy choice.

"Well, what did you choose?" I asked.

Admittedly, this was not the most brilliant question I have ever posed.

He answered me with a tale of woe that would make any true angler weep. He chose to swim to shallow water and, by the time he got there, the "huge" fish had shaken loose.

Let that sink in: my buddy was forced to choose between saving his own life or taking a selfie with a "huge" brook trout. Talk about horrifying.

After, a moment of silence, while I considered the implications, I said what any fishing buddy would say at a time like this. "No photo, huh?" I asked.

"No," he said. "It was huge."

"Well," I added. "I'm glad you are all right."

At this point I suspect he must have felt a bit silly, so I did not think it was the right time to tell him the entire disaster could have easily been averted with the use of an underwater camera.

As I said, however, that was not the time or place for that.

Instead, I felt it was now my job to console him and make him feel better. So I immediately offered a few kind words, "Well, look at the bright side. At least it wasn't an even bigger fish."

Go on. Call me sensitive. But I thought he needed that.

He then went on to describe the next part of his fishing trip, which involved emptying wad-

ers and wringing out socks. We steered clear of the uncomfortable discussion about what he did with his underwear and what he said to the gas station attendant when he had to stop to fill up again. There is still plenty of time for that. And that's because he understood the position he was in and made the right choice. Also, this has caused us both to decide it's time to invest in an inflatable personal flotation device.

I know I joke about this, but the frightening truth is not lost on me. This could have been truly tragic. It could have turned into an event that would have haunted me for years, made our friendship a sad memory and probably ruined those waters for me.

Yes, he could have landed that fish.

**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

## Frost Centre up for sale again

**E**ACH TIME I pass the Leslie Frost Centre on Highway 35 just south of Dorset I hear ghosts of the past. They are ghost voices of Second World War veterans, laughing children and university students – all who came to the centre to learn about forestry, the environment and nature in general.

The centre was built in the 1940s as Ontario's primary forest ranger training school. It offered forestry training to soldiers returning from the war. The Ontario government closed it in 2004, supposedly to save \$1.2 million in annual operating costs.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

There were fears it would be sold to private enterprise, but instead was leased to Boshkung Lake cottager Al Aubrey, who proposed it as an educational summer camp, conference centre and location for environmental science seminars.

That effort did not work out and ended in 2010 and the centre was put for sale.

The centre's dozen or so buildings have not been used since and are deteriorating. The government continues to pay to keep lights on, the grass cut and the snow plowed.

Now there is news that it will try again to sell the centre. Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott's office confirms that the government has been preparing the centre for an open market sale. That preparation includes working on heritage studies to create a heritage easement as part of the sale.

A heritage easement commits a new owner to maintain the property at a certain preservation standard. The new owners can use the property as they please as long as they are ensuring its preservation.

What all that might mean for the Frost Centre remains to be seen. Could it be turned into a five-star resort with substantial marina facilities for small yachts while displaying historical photos and other artifacts to meet the easement's heritage preservation requirements?

We'll have to see the actual open market listing and the heritage easement to know exactly what the Frost Centre might look like under new owners, and how it would affect cottaging, camping and canoeing in the St. Nora Lake area.

The Frost Centre has 24,000 hectares of natural forest that includes hiking and ski trails. Whether parts of that would be included in the sale is unknown.

The centre has a complicated history, which may or may not have interfered with the government's earlier attempts to sell.

One hundred years ago, what was then the Ontario department of lands and forests decided to establish a ranger station on the west shore of St. Nora Lake.

Then in 1944 the Ontario government and the University of Toronto entered into a partnership to create a forestry technical school. The site chosen was the ranger station on St. Nora Lake where teachers and students would have access to the 24,000 hectares of government land and some forest area owned by the university.

The original agreement called for the government to pay the capital costs of construction, while the university would supply the teaching staff.

The purpose of the school was to train department of lands and forests employees, and potential employees, plus U of T forestry program students and forest industry employees from other parts of Canada.

Things changed over the years. The Frost Centre became more of a natural resources centre where people came to learn more about nature and environmental issues. For many school children from the cities, a visit to the Frost Centre was their very first experience with being outdoors in a truly natural setting.

Eighty years ago, when Ontario was considering establishing the forestry school, Leslie Frost, then minister of mines and later premier, talked about the importance of education in conserving a healthy environment.

"The government believes that the best approach to the conservation and administration of our natural resources is to be found in education," he said.

Let's hope the folks preparing the new plan to sell the Frost Centre remember and believe in those words.

The best possible use of the Frost Centre remains as a natural resource centre, where everyone can learn about nature and the need to behave differently if we are to save our planet.

We don't need it to become yet another party place.

Before the sale, someone should pick up the beer cans and discarded cigarette packs lining the highway outside the place.

### letters to the editor

## LTC home comes through for family

**To the Editor,**

During a time when it seems that all of the stories coming from long-term care facilities in Canada are heartbreakingly dismal, I would like to share a story of praise and gratitude.

My mother, Margaret Brown, was a comfortable and contented resident at Hyland Crest and passed away there recently. Mum was cared for with tenderness, compassion, and dignity especially in her final days and hours. What a wonderful display of professionalism and kindness during what must be an emotionally exhausting period. The current restrictions and PPE protocols have placed additional demands on an al-

ready overburdened staff. And yet providing a comfortable passing was their mission – the ultimate gift. We are truly blessed to have a facility and staff of this calibre in our community. Our family will be eternally grateful.

Thanks to their diligent preventive procedures and isolation practices, the LTC homes in our county have remained free from COVID-19 cases in both staff and residents. It is time that LTC workers were valued and compensated at a level consistent with their skill, dedication, and commitment to our elders.

**Thankfully,  
Laurie Brown and family**

## Read the label

**T**HERE ARE A couple of simple rules to good nutrition. One is if your grandmother (or great grandmother) didn't use it in her cooking you shouldn't be eating it. The other rule is only ever eat ingredients that you can pronounce. Taking that a step further, let's include a new rule: we know what all the ingredients are and why they are in what we are eating.

The more processed a food is the less healthy it is for you. Essentially, a food is considered unprocessed if it is solely made up of the natural edible parts of plants and animals. Sure, some fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts and oils are considered processed because they are a step beyond their natural form but the focus today is on processed foods and highly processed foods.

- **Processed:** Foods like canned fruits and vegetables, some cheeses, freshly made bread and canned fish are examples. They are made from two to three ingredients (can include salt, sweeteners, and/or fat) and can be eaten without further preparation.

- **Highly Processed:** In addition to the incorporation of salt, sweeteners or fat these foods can have artificial colours, flavours and preservatives. They are typically ready-to-eat. Sugary drinks, cookies, chips, luncheon meats and breakfast cereals are all examples of highly processed foods.

Now getting on to understanding some of those hard to pronounce ingredients – here it goes:

- **Preservatives:** Ascorbic acid, sodium

benzoate, potassium sorbet, and tocopherols

- **Emulsifiers** (prevents the separation of liquids and solids): Soy lecithin, monoglycerides

- **Thickeners** (to add texture): Xanthan gum, petit, carrageenan, guar gum

- **Colours:** Too many to list – pick a colour, any colour. Using artificial colours in foods is less expensive and has a longer shelf life.

Food processing came about for convenience but there has been a cost. There have been studies that have shown that the combination of sugar, fat and/or

salt can intensify cravings and lead to increased consumption. I am a close relative of the Cookie Monster and living proof of addictive behaviours when it comes to cookies. We do not have packaged cookies in our house. There are other foods that affect me that way but apples and carrots do not make the list.

The point is that it's important that we educate ourselves

so we are able to make healthy choices. Sometimes it's not possible to cook a meal from scratch due to time restrictions or other demands. That's cool. The important part is knowing if a meal is not nutritionally sound and working toward making it the exception instead of the rule.

Something to think about.

*Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at [laurie@thepointforfitness.com](mailto:laurie@thepointforfitness.com).*



**Laurie Sweig**

*Practical Fitness*

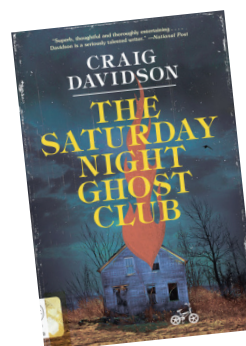
## Staff Pick - May

Branch services librarian Erin Kernohan-Berning recommends: *The Saturday Night Ghost Club* by Craig Davidson

Growing up in 1980s Niagara Falls, one of Jake's closest confidantes is his uncle Calvin, an eccentric misfit enamoured of occult artifacts and outlandish conspiracy theories. The summer Jake turns 12, Calvin invites him to join the "Saturday Night Ghost Club" – a seemingly light-hearted project to investigate some of Cataract City's more macabre urban myths. Over the course of this life-altering summer, Jake comes to realize that his uncle's preoccupation with chilling legends springs from something buried so deep in his past that even Calvin himself is unaware of it.

**Erin says:** The appeal of this book for me was nostalgia. I'd definitely recommend it to my fellow '80s kids, but also to anyone looking for an easy reading coming-of-age story with just the right amounts of spooky, funny, sad, and hopeful.

**Rating:** 10 out of 10





# COVID-19 response, surplus management hot topics at TLDSB meeting

by ZACHARY ROMAN  
Times Staff

On May 12, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board held its committee-of-the-whole meeting via remote video conference, discussing matters including COVID-19, budgets, and graduation. The meeting was live streamed to the public on the board's website.

Larry Hope, TLDSB director of education, said during the meeting that he is aware there is a degree of fatigue setting in for some parents who have found it tough to manage their own work from home responsibilities while keeping their kids engaged with online classes. "We do want to be sure that families are well supported, that students are well supported and that the load of this will not fall to our parents alone," he said.

Hope also said he is aware that there continues to be questions and concerns about the March 13 mark deadline. "The minister of education has suggested to us that we shall do no harm because of the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mark a student had going into March Break on March 13 would be the lowest possible mark that they could receive," said Hope. "I will tell you that we are having some further discussion about that, even as we speak, because what we talked about is happening in some instances. We have some students who are disengaging and thinking, 'well if I had a 51 or 60 or 73 on March 13 that mark can't go down and so I don't need to do anything else.' We disagree with that, we believe that it is the responsibility of everyone to do the work."

Hope said that TLDSB has established two committees to try to manage the issue moving forward. Hope also spoke about how the board is preparing to move forward with a return to school plan, whenever that may be.

"It is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are planning for that return to school, whatever it may be, as thoroughly as we possibly can. So we are working with a number of other

school districts, five boards that have come together in the southwestern part of the province and one way up in northwestern Ontario," said Hope. "The superintendents have come together over the past several weeks to begin developing a very comprehensive plan, considering all kinds of scenarios."

The board also discussed the accumulated surplus management plan. TLDSB has historically been able to budget for various expenditures, such as special education support, using its accumulated surplus, otherwise known as reserves.

However, the board ran a deficit for the first time in 2018-19, so the Ministry of Education has requested that the board complete a deficit elimination plan.

The deficit elimination plan requires TLDSB to eliminate \$1.94 million in accumulated surplus spending by 2021-22. Under the plan, the board is also required to make its expenditures equal the amount of money it receives from the ministry's grants for student needs and partnership and priority funding to achieve a balanced budget.

This means the board has to fund fewer initiatives with their accumulated surplus for the 2020-21 school year and prioritize surplus spending on initiatives that have not found a funding source under the GSNs or PPF grants. This year, \$985,000 was cut from accumulated surplus spending.

Some notable areas affected by the cuts that will need to find funding elsewhere are special education support, music/arts support, program enhancement, and funding for student success educational assistants.

Despite the cuts, the board found room to add \$35,000 in funding for the Trillium Lakelands Arts Camp. Additionally, \$141,000 in funding was added to the 1-to-1 technology initiative, so the board could buy the Chromebook laptops they are currently leasing in order to cut future expenditures.

In response to the accumulated surplus management plan, Haliburton County trustee Gary Brohman said that because of COVID-19 the community has gone through troubling times – and that he thinks the board should do everything

“

It is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are planning for that return to school, whatever it may be, as thoroughly as we possibly can.

— LARRY HOPE, TLDSB DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

”

in its power to put funding toward the essentials, rather than specialized areas. "This is coming from my humble point of view, but the greatest learning is every day in the classroom, English, math, literacy and the whole gamut of things, relationships are built there," said Brohman. "I believe that money should go to classroom teachers."

Tim Ellis, superintendent of business services for the TLDSB, said this year's grants for student needs have been pushed back a number of times by the Ministry of Education due to COVID-19 but are expected to come as usual.

"We do know that they're expected to be what they call a status quo," said Ellis. "So not a significant amount of changes within funding amounts."

The next committee of the whole board meeting is on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. You can listen in live on tldsb.ca.

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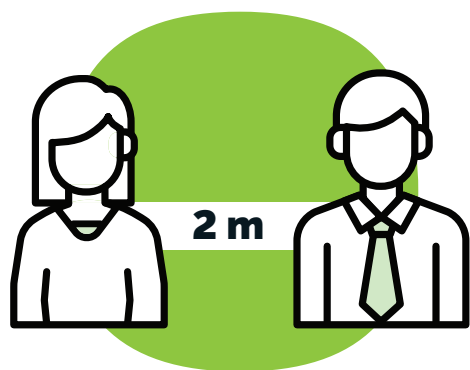
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**Wear a face covering** when physical distancing is a challenge



**Wash hands** thoroughly and often

**Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.**



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

## Online storyteller keeps it real

by **SUE TIFFIN**  
Times Staff

When Jaime Bilodeau was little, she wanted to be “the girl version of Indiana Jones.”

As an adult, the branch assistant at Minden Hills library now says, “I’m never going to do that in real life. The closest thing I guess, is reading about it.” Growing up on Madeleine L’Engle books and MAD magazine, as well as chapter books that her mom read her at bedtime rather than picture books, which kept her up at night, Bilodeau has always been a voracious reader who consumes information. Now, she uses what she has learned to help others.

Bilodeau was born in Quebec, but around the age of three moved to West Guilford, where her mom is from.

“My mom is that perfect example of single mom who worked really hard to get off of social assistance, bettered herself and did it all on her own,” said Bilodeau, whose dad died when she was nine while her mom was pregnant with Bilodeau’s sister.

That strong work ethic was passed to Bilodeau, who said she has been working since she was about 14 – her first job was at Birch Point Lodge, where her family worked for decades, but she’s also worked at call centres, in palliative foster care and overhauling airplane compasses.

At 21 she moved to Barrie to pursue a career in child and youth work but returned home a few years later and began working, like many residents here, numerous part-time jobs.

When a Community Access Program internship through the county came up, Bilodeau signed up, assisting people with technology, but saw the opportunity to help elsewhere, doing anything that was needed. “I just started picking up odd jobs as a student would,” she said. “I took anything I could get, whether it’s three hours at a Stanhope branch and covering someone’s lunch in Haliburton, it didn’t matter, I did it. It was a really good job, and you know that to live here you have to at least get your foot in the door. And in the meantime, while your foot is in the door you can’t be lazy and just sit there and expect things to happen, you have to butcher wild game, or wax and wash airplanes at the [Stanhope] airport.”

Bilodeau’s life experience, and her interest in listening and learning from people, have equipped her with the information and awareness she needs to be able to help library patrons – with finding books and accessing technology and programming, but also in some cases with helping connect someone to an after-school tutor, or a home to live in.

“The job is really assisting people in either obtaining information or services or whatever, and that’s not really a hard job for me because I live here and I know everything already,” said Bilodeau. “It’s the job where I can utilize almost every single aspect of every job I’ve had in my life.”

And then, laughing: “It’s beneficial too, to have grown up in West Guilford, gone to school in Haliburton, and now I live in Minden. My co-worker is from Gooderham so we have the whole county covered.”



Library branch assistant Jaime Bilodeau, right, and Holly Carpenter have been broadcasting videos together for the Haliburton County Public Library, reading books, creating crafts and participating in activities at home to connect with the community. /Submitted photo

## Long-term care homes are hiring

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Bilodeau calls the library a “place of refuge,” where anyone can go to feel safe and supported, which is important to her in her passion for vulnerable and marginalized people. “I don’t care if you’ve robbed a bank or if you’re the model citizen of the world,” said Bilodeau. “We’re here to provide a service and hopefully you’re using that service to better yourself or make a difference in the world somehow.”

She doesn’t ever really know what her day might look like.

“It’s just so diverse, the information is diverse, and people’s requests are diverse,” she said. “Every day looks different. Every request could be different.”

Nowadays, her work day looks much different than it has in the past, and she shares it with her daughter, Holly Carpenter. After the library closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Bilodeau, with the unpredictable and adorable Holly as her co-host, began creating videos online for HCPL patrons to stay connected. Converting her mudroom into a video room, Bilodeau plans the book reading and craft or activity with Holly’s input and hopes to be reaching families who are missing the library.

Watching Bilodeau on screen as she offers a library service while also keeping her eye on her only child has connected parents trying to juggle responsibilities at home. The videos used to be filmed live but are now edited and uploaded in part to prevent any unintentional unscripted moments, but Bilodeau said it’s important to her to do them well, offering something that is valuable as well as real.

“I think it’s important, in the videos

that Holly and I do, I don’t do myself all up, I don’t put makeup on, it’s not about me,” said Bilodeau. “I try to brush her hair, but sometimes I don’t. It’s important for parents to see that I’m still at home and I’m still struggling with something to do every day. I’m still figuring these things out, and let’s do it together.”

Noting that Holly can be entertained by the craft or activity for hours after the videos are recorded, Bilodeau said she hopes the storytelling sessions also offer a chance for parents to find some quiet time for themselves.

“I know that if parents are able to do some of those things with their kids, then they’ll probably sit there and play with it for another two hours and then that parent will get time to, I don’t know, sit down for five seconds and breathe,” said Bilodeau.

Holly, who once had no online presence, is getting used to being a star.

“She talks to the camera all the time,” said Bilodeau. “She’s always like, [this friend is] watching me right now. Hi guys, hi friends.”

Bilodeau called this time home “a gift.”

“She totally misses daycare, her friends, she misses that too, but when she thinks back, I think she’ll be like, I don’t think all my other friends got to spend all that time with their mom and do all those fun things,” said Bilodeau. “I did to a certain extent, but none of us really got to stay home, like this.”

Bilodeau said she has had to work hard in order to live the life she wants to live here, but in doing so, has found happiness.





# Archie Stouffer Elementary School

## Learn@Home program

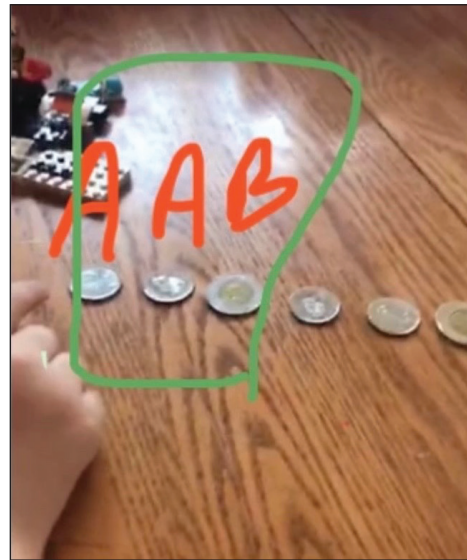
### Mrs. McArthur's kindergarten class



Dayton went out for a walk along the river and board walk to get some fresh air and exercise. Way to "Feed All Four"!



We also have fantastic mathematicians in Kindergarten. Here, Brennan has demonstrated one way to "Make 10" using his dragon and dinosaur toys!



Declan accepted the "Make a Repeating Pattern Math Challenge" and created an AAB (Quarter, Quarter, Toonie) pattern using Canadian Coins.



Students have been working very hard on their Writer's Workshop projects! We have some very talented authors and illustrators in Kindergarten! This one says "Me playing Battleship with my dad. My dad won. I want to play again."

### Rainbow Project

Archie Stouffer Elementary School participated in the Rainbow Project, in support of

the community, sending thanks to frontline workers.



Violet has enjoyed spending some of her time at home working on building puzzles with her family. She used her spatial reasoning skills to turn, flip and rotate the pieces until they fit.



Mrs. Benson



Kolby submitted this photo for the school's Rainbow Challenge to thank all of the frontline workers in our community. If you haven't seen the video yet be sure to check out the Archie Stouffer channel on YouTube!



Hannah Johnson



Katie



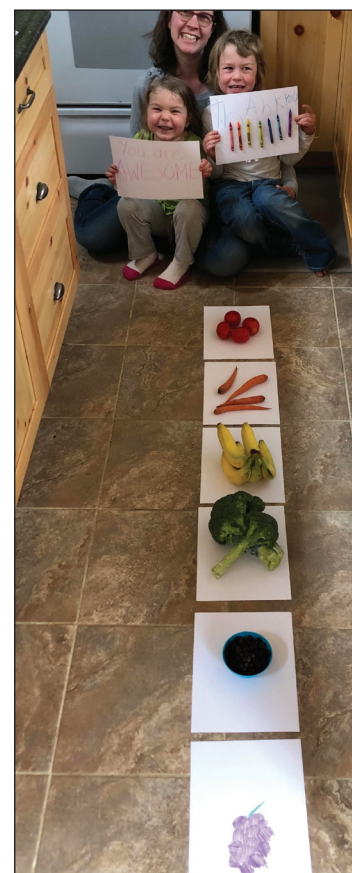
Card family



Sue Smallwood



Davidson family



McArthur family



Lexi Feero



Sarah Teljeur



# Photo conveys the mood of Picasso

by **DARREN LUM**  
*Times Staff*

A couple weeks ago, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Colleen Petric put one foot toward a post-secondary education in visual arts with an effective photo re-creation of Picasso's *Old Guitarist*, 1903.

The art assignment asked students to learn about famous works of art and the artist behind them with the goal of recreating the work in a photo. The other goal was to replace items in the work with things found around the house.

Colleen, who is a Grade 9 art student, had never completed a work of photography before and said it was a great opportunity to learn about light in her photo *My Poor Brother – the Life of a Young Guitarist*, 2020.

"I chose the Old Guitarist as inspiration for this exercise because I was intrigued by the depth of contrast created through Picasso's lighting and his unique approach to defining shapes in his work," she wrote in an email. "I'm quite satisfied with how I was able to recreate the lighting of the original painting in my photograph and how well the colours of my recreation match the original."

Teacher Karen Gervais said she appreciated how Colleen was able to maintain the same composition and mood of Picasso's original through her use of light and the way

her brother posed.

"I love the highlights in the hands in contrast to the rich darks and shadows behind and, again, putting that towel in there to create that compositional block in the grey there. Definitely pretty impressive for a first go at a photographic work," she said.

Colleen's brother is a guitarist and musician, which adds resonance to the image.

Having students repurpose things around their houses for items in the original artwork encouraged them to develop creative problem-solving skills, Gervais said.

Colleen used the towel and a blanket, supported by wooden skids.

Although her current focus is on waterco-

“ I chose the Old Guitarist as inspiration for this exercise because I was intrigued by the depth of contrast created through Picasso's lighting and his unique approach to defining shapes in his work. ”  
— COLLEEN PETRIC

lor painting, her future goal is to study visual arts at a post-secondary institution.

"She's a really motivated student. She's very teachable. She makes really effective use of the creative process and problem-solving skills and really pushes her work with trying out possibilities and informing herself through her own initiative and seeking out resources to help her tackle her challenges. So, she is a keen learner and I think she'll be able to do anything she sets her mind to," Gervais said.



Picasso's *Old Guitarist* was the inspiration for HHSS Grade 9 student Colleen Petric's photo re-creation, *My Poor Brother – the Life of a Young Guitarist*, 2020.

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						9	3	7
	5		7					
1						2		
	8				5		1	
								6
4	2			1	9			5
			3			7		4
5		2					9	
		6						

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 13*

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Please send applications to: [awilson@haliburtoncdc.ca](mailto:awilson@haliburtoncdc.ca)





## How to identify and avoid blacklegged ticks

It's that time of the year when we need to watch out for deer ticks, also known as blacklegged ticks, which can carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

In some people, Lyme disease can bring on recurring arthritis, neurological problems, numbness or paralysis if treatment is not sought.

"With blacklegged ticks present in much of southern Ontario, including Northumberland County, Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha, it's important to take precautions wherever and whenever you're outside," said Richard Ovcharovich, manager of health protection with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. "Just like mosquitoes, blacklegged ticks are another pest to avoid at this time of year."

Ticks attach to the skin, feeding on the host's blood. The longer a tick feeds, the greater the risk of Lyme disease, the health unit says.

### HKPR District Health Unit tips to avoid blacklegged ticks and reduce the risk of Lyme disease:

- Apply bug spray containing DEET on your skin and clothing
- Wear closed-toe shoes, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Pull socks over your pant legs if possible
- Stay on marked trails when walking in a nature area.
- Keep ticks away from your property. Cut grass short and trim bushes/branches to let in sunlight
- Check yourself for ticks after being outside. Shower as soon as you can to wash off any ticks. Put your clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill any ticks that may be attached

• If you notice a tick on your body, remove it as soon as possible. A health unit video found at [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca) can show you how to do this. If using a tick removal product, follow manufacturer's directions. If using finely-tipped tweezers, grasp the head of the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull it slowly, straight out. Immediately after, wash the bite area with soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitizer.

• Seek medical attention if a blacklegged tick has been attached for more than 24 hours or looks like it's been feeding for some time. You should also see a health care provider if you have symptoms of Lyme disease like a skin rash, fever, headache and muscle/joint pain. If detected early, Lyme can be treated successfully with antibiotics. NOTE: During COVID-19, call your health care provider first to ask how to get care. If you are self-isolating for any reason due to COVID-19, call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 or the health unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020 for more guidance.

Medical testing of ticks may still be ordered by doctors, however, the health unit is no longer accepting ticks for testing as of 2020. Previously, they had been testing for surveillance purposes, but no longer need to do so because blacklegged ticks are now known to be present throughout Ontario, a press release from the health unit says.

To identify ticks: go to the free eTick website ([www.etick.ca](http://www.etick.ca)). There you can upload a photo of the tick and within 48 hours will be notified if it is a blacklegged tick. This may help in deciding whether to see a health-care professional. Private labs will also test ticks for Lyme disease for a fee. The health unit can refer people to those labs.

Staff

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	8	5	4	9	1	9	3	7
3	6	1	9	7	8	2	4	5
4	9	7	2	5	3	1	6	8
5	7	8	6	1	9	3	2	4
9	2	3	7	8	4	5	1	6
6	1	4	5	3	2	7	8	9
8	5	2	3	9	6	4	7	1
1	4	9	8	2	7	6	5	3
7	3	9	1	4	5	8	6	2



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## Water access

Boshkung Lake resident Kirsti Reynolds fills her containers with drinking water from the Algonquin Highlands municipal office, located on North Shore Road (off of Hwy 35) in Stanhope on Thursday, May 14. Public water taps in AH are available at the township office and at Stanhope airport. Due to the closure of the Dorset Tower, that water tap is not currently accessible. Those accessing public water taps are reminded to observe strict hygiene protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic./DARREN LUM Staff

## Loans available for area businesses

Additional funding is available for small businesses in Haliburton County affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

On May 15, Haliburton County Development Corporation released information about the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund, which assists “main street businesses” in the county through loans. The funding is provided through the Government of Canada, part of more than \$962 million available nationally, for those unable to access other relief measures and to provide more access to capital for businesses in rural areas.

“Sole proprietors, social enterprises and small- and medium-sized businesses have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic here in Haliburton County,” said Patti Tallman, executive director of HCDC. “This investment in the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund will capitalize on our unique position and expertise to help support our rural businesses and entrepreneurs during these challenging times. As part of the Haliburton Highlands we look forward to delivering this critical program to our local community and working in conjunction with our many strategic partners to provide the necessary services

to assist businesses in their recovery efforts.”

Access to loans through the fund was made available in southern Ontario through FedDev Ontario and Community Futures Corporations, of which HCDC is one.

Interest-free loans are available to support operating costs of small and medium enterprises that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. HCDC said in a press release that it would be focusing on helping “main street” businesses with loans of up to \$40,000 and gave examples of “retail shops, restaurants, corner stores, and businesses of strategic importance to our communities.”

For information on the application process and eligibility, go to [www.haliburtoncdc.ca](http://www.haliburtoncdc.ca).

“Through RRRF we are pleased to be able to provide additional critical support to those small businesses adversely affected by COVID-19. Through our partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) we are able to provide much needed capital to those businesses who are unable to access current government subsidies,” Peter Smith, board chair of HCDC, said.

Staff

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# Archie Stouffer Elementary School Learn@Home program

## Mr. Kozlowski's Grade 5 class

Our 5th grade class has recently finished our "Forces Acting on Structures and Mechanisms" science unit. One of the assignments involved a competition for students to create a structure made of household materials (newspaper and tape) that could support the greatest load for a long duration of time. Students were to brainstorm ideas with their parents/caregivers about how to contend with the purpose of their structure given the ma-

terials they had to use. In this assignment, students had to apply technical problem solving skills to design, build and test a frame structure that could withstand an external force, which could be a tomato sauce jar or dumb bell weights. Here are some examples of structures that "held up" to the challenge.

Elyse Boisvert's structure was the tallest one made.

Kay  
Loney



Emma Bush



Elyse Boisvert



Hailey Switzer

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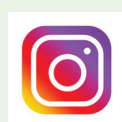
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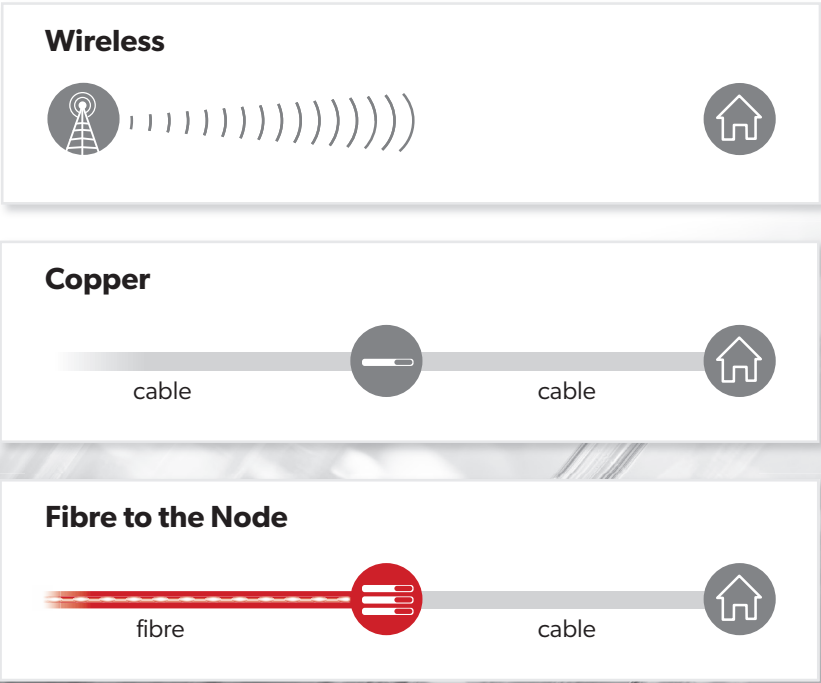


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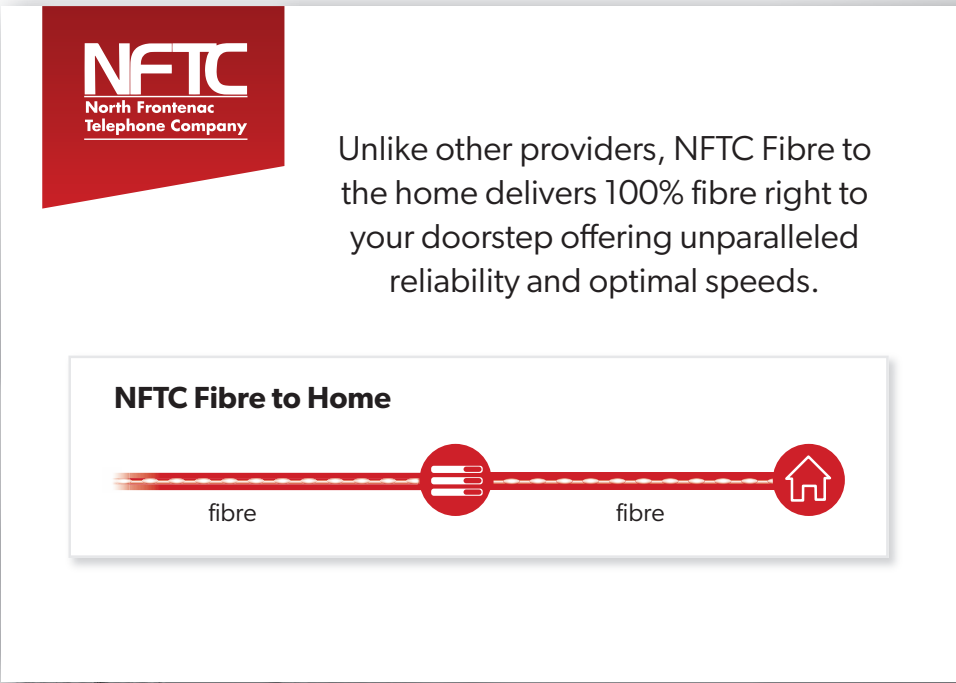
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 Township of Algonquin Highlands  
 1123 North Shore Road  
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 Email: [dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca)

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**Walk on**

Participants in this year's Walk for Water raised over \$10,000 for over-seas well development.

See page 3

**Recognition**

The members of the HHSS Student Activity Council have been recognized for their leadership in the school.

See page 12

**New director**

Haliburton County's incoming Director of Education, Brad Saunders, talks about his past and the future of

See Second Section

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Monday, June 10, 1991

## Ministry approves school expansion

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The Ministry of Education has announced that the school board will receive a grant to alleviate overcrowding at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

The board announced last week that it has received an allocation of \$2.1 million for the construction of additional classroom space. The ministry will contribute \$750,000 to construction costs and the board will pay the rest.

Board chairman Cheryl Murdoch said the announcement of the allocation was unexpected. "It's great news and a real surprise," she said in an interview on

Friday. "I could hardly believe it."

Murdoch said the addition to the Minden school will alleviate the overcrowded conditions, allowing the board to move students out of the old IGA store on Main Street and eliminate the use of portables.

The board's submission to the province proposed a separate school on the Archie Stouffer property to accommodate nine classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade Three and a gymnasium. The estimated cost of the project was \$3 million.

"We are going to have to have some

(more on page 4)

## Prescribed burn consumes 100 acres

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

More than 100 acres of forest in Stanhope Township were consumed by fire last Friday, as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources' preparations to plant 60,000 white pines.

In what is called a "prescribed burn" ministry staff set fire to three parcels of land, ranging in size from 10 acres to 80 acres. The blaze, which began at about 2 p.m., sent a thick column of smoke into the sky where it was quickly dispersed.

Peter Hynard, the Unit Forester with the ministry's Minden office, said the burn duplicated the conditions of a natural forest fire and prepared the area for reforestation with white pine next spring.

"The white pine is a slow-starting tree," said Hynard. "It will make a fast start in the burn and become strong competition before other species return."

The burn sites are located about three kilometres south of Ox Narrows and one kilometre west of Kushog Lake. MNR fire crews will continue to monitor the area until the next heavy rain ensures there are no more hot spots.

Preparation of the chosen sites involved clear-cutting, "tramping" with a bulldozer to ensure all material was on the ground and a herbicide application to retard any further regrowth before ignition.

The fires were started by an MNR helicopter which dropped flaming petroleum jelly on to the burn sites, starting at the centre and flying in circles towards the edge.

Haliburton County was once heavily

forested with white pine but unregulated logging decimated the species, says Hynard.

The white pine does not do well when it is forced to compete with other types of trees, and needs fire to perpetuate itself.

Once a stand of white pine matures and begins to die, it will be replaced by maple and balsam unless there is a fire.

Before it was clear cut, the burned areas contained a mixture of poplar, white birch, maple, balsam and some white pine. Once the stands begin to grow back, Hynard says the same mix of trees will occur, but the white pine will be more numerous and better able to withstand the competition.

The burn itself was carried out with military precision and planning.

A base camp was set up on Kushog Lake Road with a communications centre, a weather station and a helipad. The ministry crews had to wait for suitable weather before the burn could be attempted.

Jack Gravel, a weather technician from Huntsville, kept track of temperature, humidity and wind speed and briefed fire boss Tom Russell on present conditions and forecasts for the next 24 hours.

By early Friday afternoon, the conditions were just about ideal, according to Gravel, with light surface winds and an unstable air mass which would disperse the smoke quickly.

Although he could have collected the

(more on page 11)

## Bringing home the gold



High school students Melanie Duchene and John Vuksic were chosen as Girl and Boy Athlete of the Year at last Thursday's athletic banquet.

## HHSS athletes honoured

by Susan Grober

The athletes of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School had their time in the spotlight at an awards banquet held last Tuesday at the Haliburton Legion.

Team seals, awards and trophies were presented by coaches and students Kelly Strong and David Kinsella.

Melanie Duchene was chosen as Girl Athlete of the Year. Duchene has played field hockey, track and field, volleyball, and badminton. Her hard work and

willingness to improve earned her eight gold seals, two silver seals, and two Most Valuable Player awards.

John Vuksic, whose athletic interests include hockey, football and badminton, was chosen as Boy Athlete of the Year. Vuksic was described as having both incredible talent and modesty.

It was certainly an outstanding season for many of the Redmen teams.

(more on page 15)

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he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

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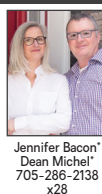
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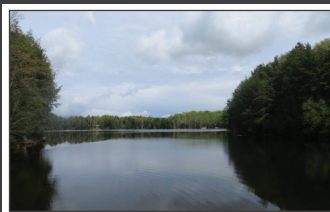




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### West Lake Building Lot \$265,300

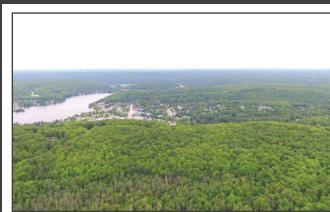
- Prime lot with a stunning view over the Lake
- Year-round township road, terrific building site
- Hydro & Bell are available at the lot line



Drew Bishop\*\*  
Kristin Bishop\*\*  
457-2128 x23

### Redstone Lake \$999,500

- Stunning hidden gem on Picadilly Bay
- Open concept with walkout to the massive deck
- 144 ft of water frontage for great privacy
- Beautifully landscaped on the 1-acre property



Dagmar Boettcher\*\*  
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### Who Am I?

- Licensed 13 years
- Environmental Consultant to Kushog Lake
- Graduate degree in Environmental Studies
- All work history in real estate and finance



Andy Campbell  
854-0292

### Gull Lake \$799,000

- 400+ ft of waterfront & 1.5+ acres
- Private seasonal road, only a few neighbours
- Build your dream cottage on the premium Haliburton Highlands lake



Gloria Carnochan\*  
754-1932

### Guilford Building Lot \$39,000

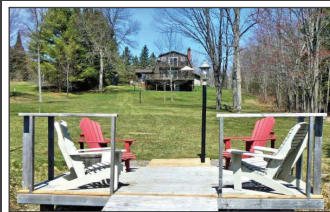
- Level, Lots of Trees, 10 Mins To Haliburton
- Walk To Village, beach, store, restaurant.
- 163' On Guilford Crt & 188' On Cnty Rd 6



Mark Denny\*\*  
457-0473

### Hwy Commercial Opportunity \$299,900

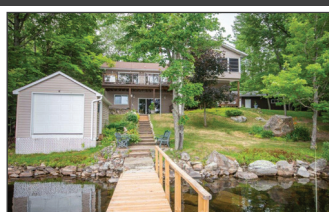
- 666 Ft Rd Frt, 3.4 Acr
- 868 Sq Ft Bldg, High traffic location
- Between Haliburton & Carnarvon on Hwy 118



Tom Ecclestone\*  
286-2138 x 26

### Country Home on the Gull \$579,000

- Immaculate Riverfront Property
- 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, high and dry
- So many features, minutes to town
- Call for direct for more information



Lindsay Elder\*\*  
457-5878

### Haliburton Lake \$899,000

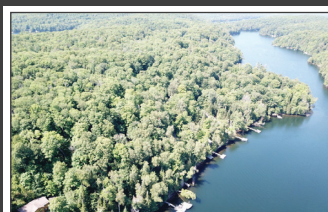
- 3-bedroom 2.5 bath modern lakefront home
- Spectacular view, deep water off the dock
- Renovated Boathouse, 2 double car garages
- 1280 Sq Ft garage/shop with high ceilings



Andrew Hodgson\*\*\*  
286-2138 x 29

### Redstone Lake \$675,000

- Beautiful 3-bedroom, 2 bath home or cottage
- Large windows & deck overlooking the lake
- Southern Exposure, sand beach on Redstone Lake



Susanne James\*  
Andy Mosher\*\*  
457-2128 x 33

### Long Lake Lots

- 3 lots available on Precipice Rd. Long Lake.
- Deep clean 2-lake chain with Miskwabi Lake
- Priced at \$129,900 \$199,900 and \$209,900
- All with easy road access, 20 mins to Haliburton Village



David Lee\*  
286-2138 x 27

### Black Lake \$225,000

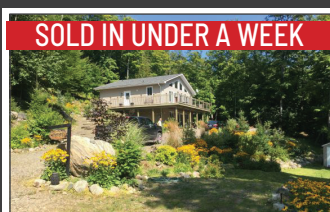
- A classic boat access cottage
- 2 bedrooms + loft for overflow
- Screened room 3 pc bath



Brandon Nimigon\*  
457-2128 x 27

### East Moore Lake \$799,000

- Custom-crafted 4 season, under 2H from GTA
- Open concept interior, sunroom & WO to deck
- 3-bedroom, 2 bath, large second level loft
- Extreme privacy, to 239' of deep clean shoreline



Karen Nimigon\*  
457-6505

### West Guilford \$425,000

- Modern 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 2.7 acres
- Lovely perennial gardens, walk to Pine Lake
- Fully Finished Walkout basement, wraparound deck



Kirsten Rae\*  
286-2138 x 30

### Industrial Park Rd \$1,350,000

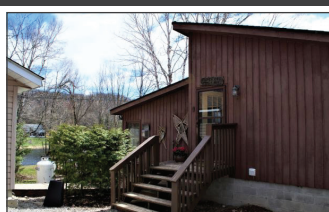
- 12,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this building!



Darlene Reil\*  
447-2055

### Loop Road \$220,000

- Food Truck and 1100+ sq.ft building with multiple uses.
- Good location.



Christine Sharp\*  
286-2138 x59

### Soyers Lake \$474,900

- Quiet bay, 344' waterfront
- 4 season home
- 2 acres



Greg Stamp\*  
457-2128 x 28

### Miskwabi Lake \$449,000

- Idyllic 1920 Sq Ft country home
- 2+2 Bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms
- Open concept living, fully renovated
- Deeded access to Miskwabi Lake



Melanie Vigrass\*  
286-2138 x 32

### Minden Executive Home \$549,000

- Bungalow w/finished walk-out lower level
- 4 Bdrms, 2.5 baths, Cathedral Ceilings
- On Beaver Creek, 2 acres.
- Det'd Dbl Garage & Det'd Insulated, Heated Shop



Tom Wilkinson\*  
286-2138 x 25

### Cameron Lake \$750,000

- 1-year old construction, shows like a model
- 3 bedroom, 2 baths, plus room to grow
- Relax at this quiet motor restricted lake.



Andrea Wilson\*\*  
457-2128 x 25

### Long Lake \$419,900

- Meticulous, year-round 2-bedroom cottage
- Attached Bunkie for extra sleeping
- South-facing lot, 115 feet of sandy shoreline

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